

December 2017

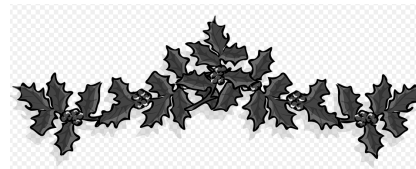


Christmas Craft Fair



District Councillor's Report

Tiffany Osborne



Stanchester Way

Many of you may recall that the original planning application for the housing at Stanchester Way failed to secure any S106 monies from the developers for our community due to an administration oversight at SSDC. However, earlier this year Summerfield requested a Deed of Variation to their original plans and as such, SSDC has rectified their original error and secured S106 funds for our community. The changes mean the development will now provide five social rented housing and five discount market housing – 10 units in total from its original plan of 35%. However, although lower than the original number given, this change has now enabled access to financial contributions for our community hall, equipped play facilities and youth facilities which were previously omitted.

Boundary Changes

I mentioned a few months ago that South Somerset was involved in the Local Government Boundary Commission review. It was previously assumed that the Curry Rivel ward (incorporating Drayton) would have the sufficient number of registered electorates to remain unchanged. However the consultation, which concluded at the end of October, would appear to indicate a preference for amalgamating Curry Rivel with the ward of Langport and Huish making it a two councillor ward and for Drayton to move into the ward of Barrington. The consultation on the draft recommendations will begin in early January and conclude in March with final recommendations published in May.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year 2018.

In Bloom 2018

Ivor Dixon

With a new independent committee, led by Gina Beauchamp, and including a representative from the Parish Council,

Curry Rivel in Bloom (CRiB) hopes to improve on its 2017 success. There will be more community involvement for all ages, more sponsorship opportunities and more projects around the village. Regular newsletters and a dedicated website will help keep everyone informed. For the moment, there is a Facebook page at facebook.com/pg/cribsomerset. please 'Like' us and share with your friends.

CRiB has acquired an allotment at Heale Lane at no cost. Treasurer Annette Stein took possession from Jenny Potts in November. At present the area is down to grass. Future uses may include community compost bins, nursery beds and raised beds. If you have good ideas for using the allotment for the 'In Bloom' project, or can help generally, email cribsomerset@gmail.com.

The War Memorial garden was the

project that spearheaded the 2017 entry, winning the City of Bath trophy for landscaping. Plans for permanent planting are still being finalised, but we hope to commemorate some of the people mentioned on the memorial by giving relatives an opportunity to dedicate a plant. We will need a lot of help from able-bodied volunteers to prepare the site and get it planted so that it is ready for the judging. If you can assist in any way, please contact us.

Any Spare Compost? We need to improve the soil at the war memorial before planting the permanent garden. If you have any compost that you can donate please get in touch, or leave it in bags by the war memorial. Offers of good top soil would also be appreciated. Contact cribsomerset@gmail.com or ring Gina on 01458 762296. Thank you!

Curry Rivel



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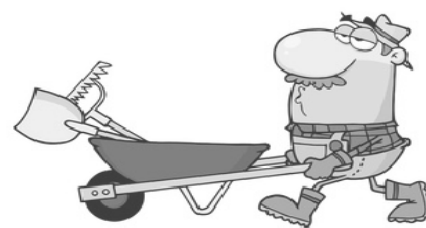
Sylvia and Peter Goodenough

As we enter the final month of 2017 we would firstly like to say a big thank you to all of you who have read our column and have been kind enough to comment favourably on our horticultural endeavours throughout the year, mainly visible in our contribution to the village entry into the South West in Bloom competition. We enjoyed leading the entry and would have liked to continue helping in the future but sadly Peter's serious unexpected health issues have made that impossible. On a brighter note 2017 was a good year for growers in Curry Rivel. The early summer was very hot, and the subsequent rain in later July and August was perfect for growing vegetables; our butternut squashes were the best ever. As Curry Rivel is so dry in most summers the "washout summer" in the rest of the country was about the right amount of rain for us.

Once again we are told 2017 will be in the top three hottest years ever recorded and one effect of this is that weeds continue to grow much later into the year than they used to. If crops are to be successful in 2018 ground must be kept free of weed over the winter - otherwise we spend all our time weeding and not planting. Digging in as much well rotted material as possible is vital now but to keep down those weeds mulch, mulch and mulch again. We are growing the winter broad beans Aquadulce Claudia through permeable membrane and Winter Density or Arctic King lettuce similarly. The warmer weather means they thrive but as the Curry mud is too sticky to hoe in winter we have decided the only way to reduce weeds is to plant through ground cover. Peas can be grown under cloches, mainly to keep mice at bay - Douce Provence and Feltham First are pretty reliable hardy varieties to use. Now is a good time to plant trees, shrubs, roses, hedges and heathers as planting later risks them not establishing enough new root to live through a potentially dry summer next year. Again, mulch them with compost, leaf-mould or spent compost. For those aficionado planting onion seeds in December, the shortest day is the traditional time to plant but again watch out for

mice - they seem to love onion seeds, as we have found to our cost. Keeping bulbs clean of weeds is helpful to them and again, mulching is good. Clean and rejuvenate ponds, removing fallen leaves as they tend to rot at the bottom of the pool causing poisonous gases. Keep something in the pond to absorb pressure if ice forms.

Plants to enjoy in December include Narcissus varieties Soleil d'or and Paper-white, Hyacinths and Iris unguicularis. Shrubs including Winter-sweet (Chimonanthus), which goes well with Sarcococca (sweet box), Erica carnea and Hamamelis mollis (witch hazel). However, we are not sure whether witch hazel grows well in Curry as we haven't seen any really good examples and there are some spectacular new varieties available. Perhaps someone can correct us on this? The list must also include faithful old Mahonia. There are very colourful berries around this year - purple Callicarpa, red holly and pyracantha, with the different species of Sorbus (mountain ash) providing red, white and yellow berries. Happy Christmas and good gardening in 2018!



WASTE COLLECTION TIMETABLE

GENERAL WASTE	RECYCLING	GARDEN WASTE
DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER
	Mon 04	Mon 04
Mon 11	Mon 11	
	Mon 18	Mon 18
Wed 27	Wed 27	
JANUARY	JANUARY	JANUARY
	Tues 02	
Mon 08	Mon 08	
		Mon 15

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Langport & District History Society

Treasurer's House, Martock

Barry Winetrobe

The Society's November meeting featured an illustrated talk by David Maclean on The Martock Treasurer's House. This is a National Trust property of which David is a steward.

He began by providing some historical context for the Martock area, including its importance in Roman and Saxon times. What became the Treasurer's House was thought to be originally a royal court, belonging to Queen Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor, and, following the Conquest, taken by the Crown and passed to various Norman favourites.

The origin and development of the House is inextricably linked with the imposing Church opposite, which became a huge edifice under its new Norman owners. The Treasurer dealt with all non-money wealth of the local church, so it was an important and influential post. The first Treasurer was Hugh of Wells, who bought the property in 1226. One indication of the importance of the Martock house was that the Great Seal of England was held there during the King's absence in 1297. The house was sold by the Church authorities in the mid-19th century; purchased in 1943 by Harold St George Gray, and then bequeathed by his widow to the National Trust in 1971.

David then traced the growth of the property, with its various additions

and improvements over the centuries, reflecting the styles of the times and the needs of its changing occupiers. He focussed on the original residence, the kitchen, later adjoining cottages, and, in particular, the spectacular Great Hall. It was built around 1300, and underwent a series of renovations, including a new roof c1500, and the addition of a Minstrels Gallery.

The chief glory of the Hall, and of the Treasurer's House itself, was a 13th century frieze which was discovered fortuitously during works by the NT. Though much, including the original colour, had been lost over the centuries, especially when painted over at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century, what remains is a priceless example of 13th century religious art. It has been left in situ and unretouched, so that visitors can get an authentic sense of it in its original setting.

David answered questions from the audience, some of who had not visited the House or its neighbouring Church, and were clearly prompted to remedy that following his fascinating talk (for details see www.nationaltrust.org.uk/treasurers-house-martock).

The next meeting will be the annual social, to be held at the History Hut, Low Ham on Monday 4 December; for more details contact Anne Michell (anne.michell@btinternet.com).

Anyone interested in joining the Society should contact Sue Standen (01458 273471, suzannestanden471@btinternet.com)

Follow the History Society at @langporthistory, and on its website: <https://sites.google.com/site/langportheritage/home>.

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Recycling in the Community

Gina Beauchamp

We can all recycle our usual plastic, tins, glass, paper, cardboard, food, clothes and shoes each week. BUT did you know that the plastic that can't be taken, i.e. the clear plastic trays and containers, can now be recycled at Tesco's in Langport where there is a bin that takes mixed plastics. This saves a lot of space in the black wheelie bin and means that less is going to landfill. Tesco in Langport recycles batteries, Sainsburys recycles ink cartridges, batteries and even water

jug filters! Keep all this recycling in the car boot so that you don't waste petrol on a special trip. You could also try not to buy things in plastic containers. Many vegetables can be bought loose and are often cheaper that way.

Garden material can be recycled by using a council green wheelie bin or by purchasing/making your own compost bin. Grass clippings, soft leafy plants including annual weeds; fruit and vegetables, uncooked kitchen waste;

selected pet waste/bedding can all be composted. Rake up leaves and instead of using space in your green bin, put them into black plastic sacks and poke holes in the bottom, store behind a shed out of sight and in a year you should have lovely leaf mould to improve your soil. Larger leaves can be chopped by running over them with a lawn mower before you bag them up.



ROY'S LIGHTING UP CHRISTMAS

It all started twenty-five years ago, when Roy Webb was laying a new drive. The 'Christmas Tree' was in the way and had to go, so he made a plywood one and put the lights on that instead.

The next year he made a snowman, followed swiftly by 'Father Christmas' and some reindeer. Originally all the decorations were home-made, but recently more modern decorations have been used, complete with flashing lights. The decorations have grown and grown, and one year they covered his whole house and even the garage. The fame of Roy's lights has grown, and they have become something of a local landmark around Christmas.

Originally for his own enjoyment Roy now makes a collection for a different charity each year. This year charitable donations will go to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. The lights will be on from the beginning of December until the New Year from 4.30pm to 9.30pm.

Roy lives in Chatham Place but no need to tell you the address, you'll spot the house as soon as you come around the corner! (with acknowledgments to John Hunt for his article printed in a previous edition)

Village Hall 200 Club

The next draw will take place at the Xmas Big Breakfast on 17 December in the Village Hall.

If you wish to buy one or more units - please contact Mrs Myfanwy Ashton on 01458 251877 a unit for a year costs £10 and will qualify for two draws. Half the money collected will be used as prize money and the other half will be used towards repairs and improvements to the Village Hall. Your support is vital!



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Christmas Crafts, Coffee and Carols

Staff from Alzheimer's Society will be offering help and advice about dementia at their Elf Day Christmas coffee morning on Friday 8 December between 10am-12noon at Langport Town Hall. There will be the opportunity to purchase handmade Christmas crafts, enjoy a mince pie and sing some Christmas Carols too!

For more information please contact Alzheimer's Society's Langport office on 01458 251541.

Christmas Lunch

Following the successful Christmas lunches which have been organised for the last few years and much enjoyed by all, we are happy to announce that we are able to do the same this year.

We are organising lunch on 25th December at Huish Episcopi Academy for anyone who may be spending Christmas Day on their own. We can offer you good company and a traditional Christmas lunch. The event is free but places must be booked by **18 December** so that we can organise catering. Transport will be available if you need it – just let us know.

If you would like to book a place for yourself, or you are aware of anybody who would like to join us, please get in touch. We are a small group of local folk who would love to spend Christmas Day with you. Last year was great fun, so contact us now! **Please contact Jo Stradling: 01458 252388 or jostrads@yahoo.com**

'Forget Me Not' Café

Christine Hampton

The 'Forget Me Not' Memory Cafe has now been in operation at Curry Rivel Village Hall for the last four months, since moving from Langport, and is proving to be very popular.

The Memory Café is open every Tuesday afternoon from 2.30pm to 4.30pm, and is for those who have memory problems, or have suffered strokes. The afternoon sessions are fun and varied, with activities, singing, gentle exercises, bingo, dominoes and of course tea and cakes! The cafe also offers carers a couple of hours of much needed respite.

As the café becomes more successful so more helpers are required. If you could spare a couple of hours a month, we would love to hear from you. Being a helper is very rewarding, knowing that you have helped others in the community.

If you can help, then please contact Christine on 01458 741606, or Adrienne on 01458 252710

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Curry Rivel W.I.

We needed a last minute change in our speaker in November and Linda Fisher from Invest Southwest proved a worthy substitute to talk to us about wills. She told us that we needed to check our wills every three years to make sure that it was still tax efficient and still fitted our needs. Her company is based in Taunton and offers a free will checking service every Friday. Do you understand the difference between Joint Tenants and Tenants in common or whether Probate will be needed? Her talk stimulated a lot of questions and making a will is clearly something that can cause all sorts of difficulties that we need to face up to.

We have had a busy month with our regular pub lunches and walks. We were happy to support the URC Christmas Fair, and it took a few members many hours of planning and sewing to make the wheat bags and door stops to sell on our stall. We also had some beautiful bead work and of course, some cakes! We attended the Annual Meeting of the Somerset Federation at Wellsprings and enjoyed hearing about all the events planned for their Centenary Year in 2018. We listened to two excellent speakers - in the morning it was Andy Marsh, the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police. He told us about his work and how they are coping with all the cuts. Fairness, equity, openness and inclusivity are his key words to building up trust in the community. He is a

national leader for 'Body Worn' video cameras which are bringing an improvement in the behaviour of both the public and police officers and he showed us some disturbing videos of the violence shown towards Police Officers. In the afternoon, we listened to Mandy Hickson - one of the first female pilots to fly the Tornado GR4, an all-weather attack aircraft in the Royal Air Force. She completed three tours of duty and flew 45 missions over Iraq. She told us about the constant challenges she faced as a woman in a man's world and was such an inspirational speaker. We all left believing that we could do anything!

Our next meeting is our Christmas Meeting on Thursday 14th December in the Village Hall. We will be having some fun and games but we are starting with a short talk from a helper at Heaven's Gate in Langport, part of the National Animal Welfare Trust. She will be telling us what happens there at Christmas and we are asking all members to bring some pet food, wrapped as a Christmas present, which will be donated to them. Come at 9.45am for a 10.00am start. If you'd like a lift or have any questions, please call Jackie German on 01458 259688 or email jackiegerman@hotmail.com

Bring and Share Lunch

Lastly, we would like to invite anyone in the village to a Bring and Share

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Lunch on **Friday December 29th** in the Old School Room. It is an open invitation to everyone, if you have some food to bring, that's great, if not please just come along anyway. Many people on their own find the period after Christmas difficult and we would like to offer a relaxed and easy opportunity to come along for something to eat and the chance to chat. So make a note in your diary and if you have any questions or would like a lift, please call Anne on 01458 253078.



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We only have 30 turkeys and 12 geese and we sold all but 4 last year, so order yours now to avoid disappointment!

We have sausages, bacon, joints of pork, joints of lamb and joints of gammon also available frozen over Christmas, so if turkey or goose isn't your thing, we could still provide your Christmas dinner!

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CURRY RIVEL MUSIC

ALEXANDRA VADUVA

Carol Haines

At our last concert in 2017 we welcomed a young Romanian pianist for the second concert of the Curry Rivel Music season in St Andrew's Church. Sponsored by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust, Alexandra Vaduva charmed us equally by her personality and her choice of music for the evening.

She began with a familiar item by Robert Schumann (1810-56; a brief life), "Kinderszenen" or Scenes from Childhood. These graceful and expressive pieces represent the capacity of Schumann's musical genius, and his ability to characterise a variety of moods.

The Schumann was followed by George Enescu, Alexandra's fellow-countryman, whose music she is researching for her PhD. Enescu was born in 1881 and died in Paris in 1955, a comparative newcomer to the musical world stage. Alexandra is championing his wider familiarity and is certainly a worthy ambassador to his cause.

It was not surprising that she should open her second-half with a Suite by the Hungarian composer Bela Bartok (1881-1945); very much the contemporary of Enescu, and writing in a similar style, Bartok was similarly interested in the folk songs and folk music of Eastern Europe, and these characteristics often "come through" in his compositions. To these composers Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) came as a musical contrast,

with his Intermezzi op.117. Brahms was the close friend of Robert Schumann. Always melodious, always convincing, he has an orchestration which is immediately recognisable. Here his "Lullabies" were charming, varied and sometimes unexpected.

Beethoven's Sonata No 2 in C sharp minor is delightfully familiar, and was named for the moonlight regularly cast over Lake Geneva, but not so by Beethoven, apparently!

After a brief "encore", our delightful young performer departed in some haste for a train to London and a plane to Bucharest, whence she was summoned to replace a sick artiste in Grieg's Piano Concerto! We wish her every success in her subsequent career.

You will have to wait a while for our next concert which will be on Saturday 17 March 2018 when we look forward to a visit from The Thorne Wind Trio – oboe, clarinet and bassoon. For further information please contact our Secretary, Mrs Anne Michell: telephone 01458 250863, email anne.michell@btinternet.com or visit our website www.curryrivelmusic.org



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Search for First World War Relatives

By Tony Potter

The local Branch of the Royal British Legion will mark the centenary of its formation next year on Thursday 8 March 2018, making it one of the oldest - if not the oldest - Branch in the Legion.

A search is now on for the descendants of those founder members of what was then known as the 'Comrades of the Great War' to invite them to an evening reception in the Old School Room



Group of soldiers from the Langport area serving in the Somerset Light Infantry in Ambala, India, in 1916.

Are you, or do you know, anyone related to the following members of that first Committee:

Mr Joe Sligo - Chairman or 'Captain'

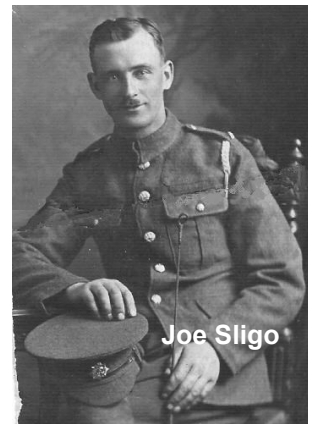
Mr E (Edward?) Mear

Mr William Baker

Mr William Langford

The Secretary was Mr Harry Lang, Grandfather of the present Henry Lang, Home Farm, Wiltown.

If you are a relative of any of these founding members, then please tell the Chairman of today's local Branch, Tony Potter, on 01458 251280 or potteramf2@btinternet.com.



Joe Sligo



Letters to the Editor

Christian Civilisation?

Dear Editor,

I was, as always, interested to read Rev. Scott's column in the November edition of CRN. He suggests the "need to guard the Christian principles which have shaped our country for many centuries." Since earliest times these have included persecution of Jews, cruel anti-Muslim crusades, condonement of slavery and colonial exploitation; and in more recent times, passive Papal support of Hitler, active Papal support of Franco, and Anglican bishops in Africa proposing summary execution or concentration camps for homosexuals. Currently, the Orthodox church in Russia is

wholly supportive of Putin, which seems morally questionable at least.

It is encouraging of course that the Christian churches have learned some morality over the centuries but there is clearly a way to go, and it underlines the lesson that there is no prerequisite for faith or religious dogma to build an ethical, respectful and tolerant society. Indeed it can be argued that the reverse is true!

To borrow a phrase from Mahatma Gandhi: "What do I think of Christian civilisation? I think it would be a very good idea...!"

Yours sincerely,

Mark Allan

Cider in Curry

Dear Editor

To add to the cider article and photograph in the November CRN - Jack Eames would 'pick in' a cart load of Bramleys and put them down in the shed in straw. Later in the year a lady from Cheddar would come and buy them for sale at her farm gate. After 'picking in' Jack and Les would 'pole down' all the apples in the orchard including the varieties, Golden Noble, Tom Putt, Easter Pippin. The farm workers' wives in the village would come to scoop them up into sacks to be carted to the gate and await the lorry from Showerings of Shepton Mallet - such was your cider made of! (To 'pick in' is to hand pick apples from ladders. To 'pole down' is to knock down apples from the trees with long poles. Bruising did not matter for cider.)

Brian Massey

Thanks to Brian for further explaining the process of apple harvesting – do any of our other readers have memories of village occupations they would like to share?

Jane Hamlin

The bar of the Bell Hotel was buzzing. It was packed with jolly customers joining in lustily to the carols being sung by a group of singers clustered in one corner. One of them was shaking a collecting tin in time to the music as she squeezed her way through the throng inviting the drinkers to contribute to whatever charitable cause they were favouring this year. Clearly, some of the drinkers had been there for some time because they were struggling to enunciate the words as accurately as those around them would have wished, as well as experiencing difficulty in finding the slot in the tin for the coins they were trying to donate. Of course, there were also the jokers who insisted on singing about the shepherds washing their socks and the three kings from the orient who were apparently one in a taxi, one in a car, and one on a scooter beeping his hooter, or something, but no-one seemed to mind. Their happy laughter at their own popular parodies just added to the general merriment.

Those sitting near the door suddenly felt a sharp change in temperature as it flew open and in came an elderly gentleman with a straggly grey beard. His battered hat and shoulders were covered in snow, although there had been no mention of snow on the early evening weather forecast.

"Shut the door, mate, we've got a nice fug in here", said Jim. Then noticing the snow on the stranger's hat and clothes, he added, "Where have you been? It's not snowing out there, is it? Are we going to have a white Christmas?"

The man closed the door behind him, but did not seem to have heard the question. As he shuffled his way to the bar, the crush of people parted to let him through, but they all seemed to shiver and rub their arms vigorously as he passed them. By the time he reached the bar the queue for drinks seemed to have melted away despite the very cold atmosphere that surrounded him. Bella behind the bar, wearing her Santa hat complete with flashing pompom, smiled and said, "Good evening, Sir, what can I get you?" The face looked familiar, but she did not think he was one of the regulars. He hadn't been in for some time if he was.

"I don't want nothing to drink," he rasped in a voice that was quiet but richly textured in the local dialect. "I need to see Eliza quickly."

"Eliza who, Sir? I don't know if there's anyone called Eliza in here this evening. Is she one of the carol singers?" Then Bella called out in a voice sharp enough to cut clean through the carols and background chatter, "Anyone called Eliza here? This gentleman's looking for her." Then turning to the man, "Are you a taxi driver?" By now the singing had petered out during the Holly and the Ivy, and most people were staring at the stranger and beginning to take in his well-worn boots and shabby workman's trousers. He certainly didn't look like a taxi driver.

"Eliza," he repeated, "Eliza Churchley, the landlord's wife. The nurse," he croaked.

"I think you must have come to the wrong pub," said Bella, "this is The Bell and the landlord's wife is Tracey, Tracey Smith."



"I know, 'tis The Bell. I wouldn't be here else. I must speak to Eliza. Where is she? It's my missus, Ruby, there's been a terrible accident. I can't afford the doctor, I need Eliza. Fetch her quickly, please."

The man was getting more and more agitated and started waving his arms around. It was then that Bella and those nearby noticed the knife in his grubby gnarled hand – not because it was shiny and reflecting the flashing coloured lights, but because it was smeared with a dark substance that looked like blood. The stunned drinkers and singers – now totally silent with eyes bulging with fear – squashed back away from him. It wasn't just the cold atmosphere that repelled them now. With an anguished cry the man turned and started calling, "Eliza, 'tis Billy Glover. You got to come and help my Ruby." Then looking at Jim and the others by the door he continued, "When Eliza gets back you tell her that Billy Glover is looking for her. She's got to be quick." As Billy disappeared out the door, the eerie silence was broken by a crash as one of the framed pictures on the wall fell to the floor smashing its glass into millions of tiny fragments. Someone screamed. Then Bella shrieked, "That's where I've seen him before! His picture was on the wall there." Sure enough, when they retrieved the picture from among the broken glass there was a faded old photograph of two men holding a cup with the caption 'Landlord Joseph Churchley presents William Glover with the cup for The Bell Cribbage Champion.' On the back was pasted a cutting from the *Langport and Somerton Herald* which told how one year on Christmas Eve, Billy Glover and his wife Ruby had been slaughtering the pig they were fattening for the winter, when Ruby had slipped and fell banging her head. Billy ran to The Bell Hotel seeking the help of Mrs Eliza Churchley, the landlord's wife, who was also a nurse. Unfortunately, the Churchleys were away at the time and Ruby Glover died of her injuries. Billy was so distraught that his health was affected and every Christmas Eve until he died he would arrive at The Bell asking for Eliza, although the Churchleys had moved away to another part of the country.

As far as I am aware none of this story is true, but maybe you know differently. The people who were in The Bell that night swear that this is what happened. Perhaps you were one of them?

Where's Ed To?

Ed Pratt, ex photographer for the Curry Rivel News, set off in March 2015 on his 18,000 mile World Unicycle Tour; if successful Ed will be the first person ever to officially circumnavigate the globe on one wheel. He is also raising money and awareness for the local charity School in a Bag.

Having completed a gruelling journey across Australia Ed is now in New Zealand pedalling his way from south to north. Here he is pictured at Sterling Point, Bluff, New Zealand's most southerly point accessible by road where he started the New Zealand leg of his world unicycle tour. 'According to the sign, the UK, and the finish point of my world ride, is 19,000km (11,800miles) away. And while that might sound like a fair old distance, luckily for my legs, half this distance for me will be over water. So although it may not seem it, with only New Zealand, North America and a section of the UK (6,000miles) left to unicycle, I feel like I'm on the finishing straight of my trip. Its potentially could be as little as 6 months until I step off my beast of a unicycle for the last time back home in Curry Rivel, and declare this world well and truly unicycled!'

Before he started the New Zealand leg *The Curry Rivel News* spoke to Ed's mum, Roxane, about her son and his journey. 'We had a long Skype chat with Ed yesterday and all is good. He is very well, fully rested and ready for the next leg of his journey. He has been busy editing episode 6 of 'Ed Unicycles Australia'. Ed's videos and blog can be found on you tube and facebook <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58UPWbl6Ln4&feature=youtu.be> or visit his Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MrEdPratt/videos/2032535596975949/>

Ed has given himself 2½ months to complete his ride through New Zealand. This takes him to the first week of January, so he will be spending his 22nd birthday (8th December), this Christmas and New Year in New Zealand. This schedule should be a little less punishing than the 3,000+ miles in 90 days he set himself to unicycle through Australia. Then it will be America, starting in San Francisco, the route yet to be finalised.

As ever, Nick and I remain extremely proud of Ed's achievements on this trip. His endurance, self-sufficiency and drive are incredible. He makes the most of every moment and shows an ability to adapt to the opportunities that present themselves. He has enjoyed speaking at a few schools recently about his travels and I am sure he has

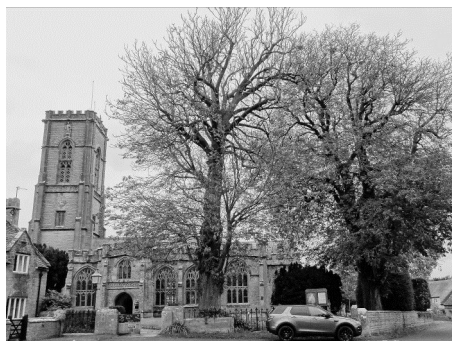


motivated many children to become more active as well as illustrating to them where a determination to succeed can take you.

Of course, Nick and I, his sister Sam and the rest of the family continue to miss him. However, he is planning to be home next May/June and that is starting to feel quite close. He will finish his circumnavigation where he started - at 'School in a Bag' charity HQ, Chilthorne Damer, near Yeovil. Nearer the time, he will let everyone know when this will be. I hope many of the villagers will be able to come over and see him complete the ride. He is aiming to raise £18,000 for 'School in a Bag' to reflect the 18,000 miles he will have cycled. With Gift Aid, he is only about £800 off his target. It would be lovely if this could be reached by Christmas (<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=WorldUnicycleTour>).

Wishing you a Happy Birthday, Happy Christmas and successful completion to your journey in the New Year Ed - from your home village.

St. Andrew's Church



We warmly welcome visitors and new members of the community to any of our services and other events.

Please note that, due to the Christmas season's services and events, there are several **changes** this month to the **regular pattern of services**.

December

Sunday 3rd - 1st Sunday of Advent

10.00 **FH** - United Benefice

All Age Holy Communion

4.00 **CR** - United Benefice

Family Christingle

Thursday 7th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 10th - Advent 2

9.30 **SW** - Holy Communion BCP

11.00 **CR** - Holy Communion CW
& Sunday Club

6.00 **FH** - Carol Service

Monday 11th

3.30-5.30 **CR School** Messy Church

Tuesday 12th 10.30 **CR OSR** - Drop-In

Wednesday 13th

7.00 **SW** - Carol Service by candle-light

Thursday 14th

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

2.45 **Immacolata House**

Residents' Communion

Sunday 17th - Advent 3

9.30 **CR** - Said Communion CW

9.30 **FH** - Morning Prayer CW

6.00 **CR** - Carol Service

Tuesday 19th

7.00 Carols at **Chatham Place**, followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Wednesday 20th

7.00 Carols in Fivehead Crown Inn

Thursday 21st

10.30 **CR OSR** - Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 24th - Christmas Eve

9.30 **FH** - Holy Communion CW

4.00 **FH** - Crib Service

4.00 **CR** - Crib Service

11.15 **CR** - Midnight Holy Communion

Scott's spot



For many Christmas is a time of mixed emotions, meaning different things for different people. For some, in harmony with the Christmas message of joy and celebration, it will be a happy time. There will be family gatherings, the giving and receiving of gifts, parties, good food, children's laughter and fun.

For others, though, this season will bring pain. There may be the memory of a bereavement around this time – be that recently or many years ago. It may be the thought of happy Christmas' long ago, before the children grew up and left home, that highlights the ever-passing years. It may be that illness, disability or loneliness makes celebration hard. Or it may be that as we look at the world around us with the suffering of so many through hunger, war, displacement, selfish leadership, homelessness, poverty and disease, we have heavy hearts. In worldly terms, the truth is that many will have little, or nothing, to celebrate. Christmas may be a time of joy, but not everyone will be rejoicing.

Yet as we face the reality that despite the decorations many around us will be struggling, it's precisely here that we can see the true wonder of the Christmas message.

December ctd.

Monday 25th - Christmas day

8.30 **SW** - Christmas Holy

Communion BCP

10.30 **FH** - All Age Christmas

Holy Communion

Sunday 31st - New year's Eve

10.00 **CR** - United Benefice

All Age Communion

CR = St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel

CR OSR = St. Andrew's Old School

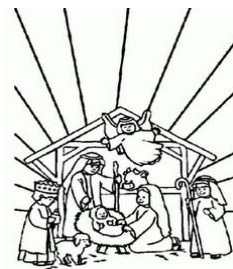
Room

FH = St. Martin's Church, Fivehead

SW = St. Catherine's Church, Swell

In traditional carol services the final bible reading comes from the beginning of John's Gospel and includes these words: *'The Word became flesh and lived amongst us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.'* Here we find what *really* makes Christmas a time of wonder, that at its heart we find the staggering proclamation that God became flesh, taking on our humanity. The point is that because of this he understands what we are going through. He doesn't just sympathise with our pain. As someone who knows the taste of it, he empathises. He doesn't just gaze benevolently from a distance as we face the trials of life. He has shared in human life himself – experiencing the same temptations, ravaged by the same fears, suffering the same pain, and tasting the same joys and sorrows. He is involved in our human situation and offers his companionship and strength for the journey.

Christmas is certainly a time of joy, but it is not only for the joyful. It is certainly a time of



celebration but again, not solely for those able to celebrate. It is a time of good news for all whether they laugh or cry, rejoice or despair. In Jesus, the baby born in Bethlehem, God has entered our world. He did this so that through that unique life, those who receive this Christmas gift may enter his kingdom where all, undoubtedly, shall rejoice.

With every blessing to you and those you love this Christmas,

Revd. Scott Patterson.

**'Carols, bangers and mash'
on Friday 1st December
in the Village Hall**

When you receive this issue of the CRN this event will be almost upon us. Last chance to buy tickets (£7.50) in Sandpit's DIY/Garden Centre, the Shell petrol station/Post Office, the School Office or Barbers at Coopers Cross.

Doors open at 7.00 pm.

**Family Christingle Service
in St. Andrew's**

**Sunday 3rd
December 4.00pm**

All items to make a Christingle during the Service will be provided.



Drop-In at St. Andrew's OSR

Please note that Drop-In on **12th December** will be the last time this year. There will be 'a winter break' and Drop-In will resume on **13th February 2018.**

Carol singing

Tuesday 19th December 7.00pm

This year's Carol singing will be on the **Chatham Place Green**. Please join us in singing the seasonal Carols, accompanied by local musicians. Refreshments (mulled wine & mince pies) will be served afterwards.

Update on the Shoe Box Appeal

Many thanks to all who gave a shoe box filled with lovely gifts to children and adults who otherwise would have nothing this Christmas.

At the moment 40 boxes have gone from the village on their journey abroad and there will be more to come. A final total will be in next month's CRN.

St. Andrew's Rotas December

Brass - Sue Blackwell

Flowers

2nd, 9th, 16th - Advent

23rd - Christmas arrangements

Church cleaning

2nd - Jackie and John de Ronde

9th - Nicky Barker

16th - Lynne Comley

23rd - Lyn Cotterill

30th - Julia Gauler



United Reformed Church



December

Sunday 3rd 10.30 - Mrs Jo Morling
(incl. Holy Communion)

Sunday 10th 10.30 - Mr Tony &
Mrs Jenny Potts

Sunday 17th 10.30 - Rev Viv Henderson

Sunday 24th - Christmas Eve

10.30 Rev Tim Richards

11.00pm for 11.15pm Midnight Service
Rev Tim Richards

Monday 25th - Christmas Day

No service

Sunday 31st - t.b.a.

We are a small, inclusive, outward looking community and wherever you are on your life/spiritual journey we welcome you without regard to age, gender, denominational background, sexual orientation, race or ability. We respect the traditions of our past, engage with the present and look forward to the future, believing that Christian truth is not contained in static prepositional statements but is ever changing and constantly evolving. Tea/coffee is served after every service providing the opportunity to meet and chat with each other and the preacher.

URC Minister: Rev Tim Richards
01458 252799



I decided to ask a direct question this year about what a certain 13-year-old thought about a certain magical pillowcase which is empty when she goes to sleep but full and overflowing when she wakes. Her answer revealed her own ability to keep a secret having apparently 'known for four years' (!!) about the secret I had been fostering - she keeping up the pretence for fear of losing out! We laughed about each other's subterfuge; inwardly, I feel a little sad.

The 'magic' has ended.



The friends and members of Curry Rivel United Reformed Church take this opportunity to wish the readers of the Curry Rivel News a blessed Christmas and warmly extend

an Invitation to the CHRISTMAS EVE Service.

Come darkness, come light
Come new star shining bright
Come Love to the world tonight -
Hallelujah.

Come broken, come whole
Come wounded in your soul
Come anyway that you know -
Hallelujah.

Come doubting, come sure
Come fearful to this door
Come see what Love is for - Hallelujah.
(Mary Chapin Carpenter)

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

A huge THANK YOU to all who supported or helped in anyway: we hope you enjoyed the buzz of community getting together and the wonderful gift ideas on offer.

Pillow talk ctd . . .

Another transition. This time from the innocence and wonder of childhood to the knowingness of adolescence. On reflection, I knew toward the end of primary school blind faith in the Turkish (possibly) Saint had waivered - it was me who kept up the pretence and thinking about it as I write most probably to protect and keep for myself the wide-eyed wonder of childhood revisited and reignited through my daughter. I grow up a second time.

Moving from an unquestioning, blind childhood faith through to a mindset which explores and challenges the 'givens' is the natural course of development - it enables ownership of our principles, values and beliefs as thought through and fully understood, and as such is to be celebrated. Letting go of the magical and mythical leaves room for the truth and challenge of God Incarnate, God with us, and an exploration of how that might influence the way we live our lives.

West Sedgemoor Wonders

Liz Antliff-Clark - RSPB Volunteer

This year, for the first time in four centuries a very special event took place on the West Sedgemoor reserve— five golden, fluffy chicks were hatched. Three pairs of Eurasian (or Common) Cranes successfully reared four chicks to the point of fledging. They, with their parents, are now with the general flock and can be seen at times within the bounds of the village. The juvenile birds are almost as big as their parents now but they don't quite look like them yet. They have rusty coloured heads and necks unlike the adults who have black and white heads and necks with a bright red top to their heads. The young stay with their parents for around a year until the breeding season starts and then they are chased away so that the adults can get on with their important breeding work. Local schools and businesses were encouraged to champion the released birds so they all have pet names though they are properly identified by their leg rings.

The best place to observe a flock is from the Parrett Way between Oath and Stathe but they do move around quite a lot. They can be seen in the air in their V shaped pattern and can be heard 'bugling' (a bit like yodelling). The released birds still wear their coloured identity rings which are on their legs and this helps to record their progress. Out on the Levels they are remarkably difficult to see considering they are now one of the largest wild birds in Britain. Nature has

ensured that they melt into the background whatever it is. Also they love feeding in ditches and where the vegetation is tall. However patience is rewarded by the sight of them peacefully feeding or preening. It will be some years before the project is considered a success because Cranes are quite long lived (around 20 years) and take time to establish a sustainable flock.

The project to re-introduce cranes to the Somerset Levels, where they used to be very common until hunted out of existence, started in 2010. After five years around 100 birds had been released after eggs from Germany were hatched at WWT Slimbridge. Ninety-three birds have survived and all are capable of breeding now. So far these beautiful birds have produced eleven young in locations as far away as Wiltshire and South Wales but this year the successful rearing took place on West Sedgemoor – the event we were all waiting for! This has confirmed the wisdom of releasing them on the Levels where hopefully they will stay for a long time to come.

If you would like further information you can visit the Crane website - thegreatcraneproject.org.uk

Inner Wheel

Dorothy Wadeson

Last month the club had a very interesting speaker after lunch, Damon Bridge from RSPB talked about the success of the Great Crane Project on the levels.

This month sees us all very busy preparing for our Annual Charity Lunch which always attracts a good number of people in the area. Our speaker will be one of the First Responders, our President's charity this year.

We have also filled Christmas shoe boxes for those less fortunate than ourselves. These can go anywhere in the world and each year our District Inner Wheel collects a huge number of boxes from the 20 clubs in the region together with small knitted teddies, as many children have never owned a toy.

Next month sees us all enjoying a Christmas lunch with family and friends.

Always something to look forward to, our club meets at the Langport Arms on 2nd Monday each month. Contact on 01458 252648 to find out more.



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In December

Regular Events

MONDAY

9.45	Art Club	Village Hall
6.00	Pilates	Primary School
6.45	Explorer Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport

TUESDAY

10.30	Drop In (2nd & 4th only)	Old School Room
10.30	Dancing Classes	Village Hall
2.30	Forget-Me-Not-Café	Village Hall
5.45 -8pm	Pilates	Primary School
6.00	Cub Pack	Scout Hall, Langport
6.30	Guides	URC Hall
7.00	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
7.30	Sedgemoor Garden Club	All Saints Hall, L'port (2nd only)

WEDNESDAY

9.30	Mother and Baby Group	Village Hall
7.00	Dancing Classes	Village Hall
6.45	Scouts	Scout Hall, Langport
7.30	Bell Ringing	St Andrew's

THURSDAY

9.30 -11am	Parent, Baby & Toddler Group (Term time only)	Primary School Hall
10.00	WI	Village Hall (2nd only)
1.30 - 3.30pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
4.30	Rainbows	Village Hall
4.30	Brownies	Village Hall
7.30	Parish Council	Village Hall (1st only)

FRIDAY

9.30-2	Get Together Club	Village Hall
	Cinema Night (not August)	Village Hall (3rd only)

Special Events

Fri	08	10-12	Xmas Crafts and Carols	Langport Town Hall
Sun	17	8.30 – 12.30	Xmas Big Breakfast	VH
Fri	29		Bring & Share Lunch	OSR

N.B. No Movie in the Village Hall this month



Your Community Website curryrivel.org.uk
Curry Rivel - Above the Levels

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Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Youth Organisations

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	01460 281184
Rainbows	01823 698940
Brownies	251953
Guides	252901
Pynsent Youth Football Club	251084

Sports Clubs

Bowls Club	251616
Cricket Club	01823 698849 & 01458 252791

Social

Flower Show	250311
Out & About	252146
Royal British Legion	251280
Twinning Association	251432
Women's Institute	259688
Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton	252813
PROBUS	252545
Sedgemoor Garden Club	250091
Heale Lane Allotment Association	253953
Get Together Club	251773
Health Walks	250725
Mother and Baby	07732 197030
Forget-Me-Not-Café	252710 & 741606
Inner Wheel	252648

Arts

Entertainers	250311
Music Club	250863
Dancing Classes	07730 755203
Art Club	253126

Community Facilities

Village Hall (crvhbookings@gmail.com)	741606
Old School Room Bookings (crosbookings@gmail.com)	250655/253856
United Reformed Church Hall - Lettings etc.	259391
URC Secretary	259434

Community Services

Doctors	250464
Police	101
Yarlington Housing	01935 404500

Education

Little Pips	252822
Primary School	251404
Huish Episcopi Academy	250501
Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre	251055

Local Authorities

Parish Council (Clerk) m.ludgate@btinternet.com)	251432
District Council	01935 462462
County Council	0300 123 2224

Religious

Church of England Rector	251375
Lay Reader	01460 281555
Churchwarden	259003
Secretary PCC	251355
Organist & Bell Ringing	253856
Flower Guild	252710
Roman Catholic Church	Somerton 274008
United Reformed Church Minister	252799

The Curry Rivel News Group
wishes all its readers
a very Happy Christmas

Soldier's Name added to Memorial

Tony Potter

William West, known as Fred, was a local man, whose father was a farm labourer in Isle Abbots. Fred, having been a former soldier, was recalled to the Army on the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.

He spent the next four years as a Royal Engineer on the Western Front in Flanders, rising to the rank of Corporal. On 27 April 1918 he, together with his section of seven soldiers, was

constructing a new defensive position west of the Belgium town of Ypres when a German artillery shell fell in their midst. Fred and five others were killed, whilst the other two were seriously wounded.

Fred and his section are buried next to each other in the now peaceful tranquillity of Gwalia Military Cemetery, close to where they were killed.



His granddaughters, Judy and Sally West, who live in Devon were present at this year's service of Remembrance in November and are pictured next to the memorial board in St Andrew's Church where their grandfather's name has recently been added to the list of men who died during WW1.



We will remember them

